in Supreme Court and various High Courts during the last three years;

(b) the details thereof, category-wise;

(c) the details of vacancies of SCs/STs still unfilled, court-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to fill up the vacant posts immediately by appointing SC/ST candidates?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) There being no reservations in the matter of apointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts on the basis of caste or class of persons, information is not maintained separately for caste or class etc.

**Termination of Supreme Court's Employees**

1488. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that services of many permanent employees of Supreme court of India have been terminated during the last two years;

(b) if so, the number of permanent employees whose services were terminated during 1996 and 1997 separately and with what reasons;

(c) whether Government are aware that as a result of termination of services of permanent employees, there is great resentment amongst serving employees of the Supreme Court of India and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The Registry of the Supreme Court of India has reported that in the year 1996, the services of one officer were terminated by way of removal from service as a measure of penalty after he was found guilty of charges of misconduct i.e. tempering of Court's record and lack of integrity in a regular departmental inquiry for major penalty under the relevant rules while the services of one officer were terminated by way of retirement in public interest under the provisions of FR 56 (j). In the year 1997, the services of one employee were terminated by way of removal from service as a measure of penalty after he was found guilty of charges of misconduct-persistent unauthorised absence from duty since 1.8.92 and non-compliance of direction of competent authority in a regular departmental inquiry for major penalty under the relevant Rules while the services of three officers/employees were terminated by way of retirement in public interest under the provisions of FR 56(j) or rule 48(1) (b) of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972

(d) It is for the Chief Justice of India to take necessary action under the provisions and Article 146 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of India.

**Draft Rules Under Inland Vessel Act, 1917**

1489. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government have submitted draft rules (Inland vessels survey rules and Inland vessel registration rules) under the Inland Vessel Act, 1917 to his Ministry;

(b) if so, when was it submitted; and

(c) why Government have not given approval to it so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a proposal in connection with the realisation of fees for registration and related matters of Inland Vessels under Inland Vessel Act, 1917 received from Govt. of Kerala is under process.